



**GEORGE Q. CANNON,**  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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THE Southern States appear to be in a very poor way. Politically, Louisiana, Alabama, South Carolina, Arkansas, and Florida have been advancing towards a chaotic state, they appear, at least, to be in a chronic condition of miserable party squabbling. Worst of all is Louisiana, with a three-fourths negro legislature, and torn to pieces by bold and unscrupulous partisans, her best and most intelligent citizens apathetic from being numerically overpowered, and from having no special sympathy with either of the openly antagonistic parties, the State government virtually overthrown, and the presence of Federal troops alone preventing bloodshed and anarchy.

The Southern States, many of them, are manifesting the imprudence of pulling down a house about the ears of its inhabitants before there is another built for them to reside in, a common fault with most professed reformers, showing also that the building up faculty, though more rare than the pulling down faculty, is really of vastly greater importance to the well-being of society.

Under the old regime the South presented a passable degree of order and prosperity, although some of her institutions and political and social features might not have been exactly such as most people could wish. Through the late war some of her institutions were overthrown, some of her political doctrines scattered to the winds, and the controlling portion of her able, experienced, and intelligent public men flung out of the current of official and influential life, before any other portion of the Southern population was educated up to a standard requisite to fill the vacated position. The "poor whites" and the manumitted negroes were entirely inadequate to fill the places of public trust and influence vacated by the highspirited and intelligent sons of the South who went down into utter or partial oblivion in and through the war. Then rushed into the South a flood of shrewd, bold, hungry and unprincipled carpet-baggers, who managed to secure positions of controlling influence, fighting over the political spoils. They have been largely instrumental in bringing the South down to her present low and disgraceful estate, or at least in preventing her from recovering from the effects of the war, and advancing towards a fair degree of prosperity again.

Compared with former times, in many portions of the South, there is no high toned society, there are no stable institutions, there is no portion of the inhabitants fit and prepared to take the lead and command the respect of the community. The miserable, corrupt, squabbling carpet-bag office holders, office-seekers, and political adventurers generally, are manifestly hated and even despised with intense cordiality by the better class of Southerners, with and through whom the political and material prosperity of the country must come, unless in the scarcely probable event of the immigration of an equally intelligent class to settle in the South.

At present, the prospect for the South looks gloomy. Recovery from the present miserable condition of affairs must be a work of time, and we wish we could see some indubitable indications of the good time which all good citizens wish was certainly coming.

As to the carpet-bag fraternity generally, nothing good can be hoped from them, they are worthy of neither respect nor consideration. Utah has had some unhappy experience with them. They have tried hard to drag her down to a condition of wretchedness similar to that which prevails in the worst afflicted portions of the South, but have not yet succeeded. Heaven grant that they never will.

THE present has been a most conspicuous season for extraordinary and violent

storms in the British Isles, on the ocean and in other parts of Europe. The dispatches again report severe storms in England, rain the heaviest of the season, snow twelve inches deep and great inundations in the midland counties, hurricane on the middle east shore, and damage all across the island.

SAYS one of the greatest newspapers in the Union—

"We appear in the midst of a monstrous cyclone of crime. \* \* What criminal horror shall we next? And again, is there no medicine for the debased public morality which leads to such crimes?"

This last cry is similar to one uttered ages ago—"What shall we do to be saved?" It may receive a similar answer—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, which, when followed to its natural results, involves repentance of sin, baptism for the remission of the same, the reception of the Holy Ghost by authorized laying on of hands and a life henceforth of devotion to the principles of life, which include all that is right and good.

Discuss this subject as men may, there is no effectual remedy for crime out of probity, for vice but virtue, for dishonesty but honesty, for strife but peace, for discord and antagonism but harmony and union, in short for death but life. If the people are vicious, vice will prevail, if they are virtuous virtue will prevail, if they are quarrelsome quarrels will prevail, if they are peaceable peace will prevail. Nothing can be more simple and natural.

The reason that crime prevails so greatly in these United States is because so many of the people have become corrupt, they have indulged in that which is not just and right, and they have become diseased as to morality. There is evidently not sufficient strength of virtue in a community where crime and vice prevail so extensively, and they must continue to prevail unless the people will reform and live the lives of upright men.

Here is the kernel of the question—reformation. Everybody is forward to reform his neighbor, but that is not the point. It is a personal, an individual matter. Self, not neighbor, is the very identical being that makes all this mischief. Reformation, to be of any practical value, must begin at home. There is plenty of room for it to work with effectiveness, but there is usually the last place where it is permitted to work. Every man in the community who commits a vicious or criminal act, contributes to this fearful aggregate of vice and crime which startles and shocks the community, and he is responsible for it so far. If he wishes vice and crime to diminish, let him cease to indulge in vice and crime himself, and then he will have made the most telling effort of which he is capable towards a consummation so devoutly to be wished as the material reduction of the aggregate amount of crime in the community.

The cupidity, the worship of pecuniary success, the insane lust for gold and the luxuries it commands, which characterize American society, are among some of the most demoralizing influences to produce the swelling flood of criminality so much and so loudly complained of, and if these are not checked, the same tale of decline and fall will be told of this republic as has been told of others which rose to great power, and prosperity and through vice and crime became numbered with the things that were. It is righteousness, and righteousness alone, that permanently exalts a nation, and it is impossible for a nation to be righteous collectively unless its people are righteous individually. There lies the gist of the matter.

OUR Washington dispatches state that another crusade against the "Mormons" is in process of inception in Washington, to assume more manifest development after the holidays; that President Grant has recently expressed a determination to put an end to the "Mormon institution"; and that a change among the high officials of Utah is rumored to be impending. This last change is greatly needed, and it is to be hoped that all of the next batch of officials will be of high character, good sense, sound discretion, and sterling integrity. We have had so many of a contrary character already that the people are heartily sick of them. As to the other two matters mentioned, it is not surprising that a new crusade should be reported, as certain malicious parties have been trying for months to get one

started. If the statement concerning President Grant is true, we beg to assure him that he is bent upon a mistaken policy toward Utah, which he will himself learn when he is more perfectly informed of the true condition of affairs in the Territory. If he really makes any credit by the energetic pursuance of a persecuting policy, he will be the first ruler in the history of the world that ever did. He may have read that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church," but it does not lie within the range of the duties of a prudent power to demonstrate the truth of that proverb. Pharaoh, Herod, and in later years Buchanan and McKean tried to do it, but neither of them made capital by his efforts in that direction. As for the pure gold, it dreads not the fire, neither suffers loss by contact therewith. But it may be that corruption has made such advances in the Union that a public spectacle of the sublimity of unflinching integrity to principle is really necessary to save the nation from speedy decay and dissolution. In this view, if it must come, we feel rather disposed to welcome than avoid the new crusade. If President Grant chooses to assume the role of persecutor of the Saints, as rumored, we do not, but, on the contrary, if we were compelled to make choice of one of the two, we should unhesitatingly elect to be numbered with the persecuted Saints. We believe the latter would pay the best in the end, while it would insure the supreme satisfaction of a good conscience all the time.

THE dispatches which we publish to-day are of considerable interest. The fire fiend continues his ravages in several places, and fire-proofs seem to be small matters in his way. Dewitt Talmage's Church, the central Presbyterian Tabernacle, Brooklyn, is among the number of buildings destroyed. The walls and roof of this new church were of corrugated iron and the structure was considered fire-proof, but it went down an easy prey to the devouring flames, furnishing another evidence that iron is far from being such a protection from destruction by fire as has been generally supposed. Iron, under the influence of fire, warps, twists, curls, becomes red hot and sets fire to combustible material, softens, melts and is exceedingly untrustworthy and dangerous when the fire has once got a start. This matter of fire-proof material for building is one of unusual interest just now, and brick and plaster and solid beams of timber seem to have the best of it so far.

Whitelaw Reid, it is stated, vacated his seat as chief editor of the New York *Tribune* on Saturday, and John G. Harsard has been installed manager. The *Tribune* is announced under the new proprietorship to be an independent administration paper. It is further stated that Mr. Orton has sold to Reid fifty of the hundred shares of the *Tribune* property, Orton retaining one, with the elective position of trustee. This leads to the supposition that Reid will reconsider his resignation and probably reaccept the position of chief editor if tendered to him. Colfax, it appears, is entirely out of the concern, editorially, which will doubtless be fortunate for the paper.

While we are enjoying a very mild Christmas time, what are termed the northwestern States are shivering under the most severe cold known for years, so the report comes. Ohio had it 15 degrees below zero on Saturday night. At Chicago the mercury on Saturday was eight degrees below at noon, at 7 p. m., 12 below, at Fort Gary, 42 below, at St. Paul and Minneapolis 30 below, at Milwaukee 20 at noon. That is rather sharp for before Christmas. Probably in consequence of the intense frost, we have accounts of several instances of exploding water pipes of kitchen ranges, some resulting fatally to persons near. Death in the kitchen in that way may induce the inventive genius of the country to devise some safer method of water supply.

In England the inundations continue. Old Father Thames widely overflows his banks, rising a foot on Saturday. Thousands of acres of land are submerged, and the Home Park at Windsor is a vast lake. This is the greatest inundation of the Thames for twenty years.

News comes of the death of Geo. Catlin, the Indian painter and traveller. No further sensation concerning Utah.

DURING the last two or three years, with the increase of business in this city, a large increase in the number of build-

ings has taken place, and in the business portions of the city they have been erected in closer proximity to each other than was previously the case to any great extent. Many of the new erections built are very largely of timber and therefore are more combustible than if adobe, concrete, brick or rock were more commonly used, as was formerly the case. With the increase of business has also come the influx of a desperate class of population, drawn hither by reports of the prosperity of the Territory, who, it seems pretty certain, would not scruple to add arson to their other criminalities, in the hope of securing available means for which other persons have labored, or from some other reprehensible motive. These facts have led to the introduction of measures for the prevention of destructive fires and their speedy extinguishment should they unfortunately occur.

Within the last few months considerable progress has been made in this direction. The city has constructed and put in general reservoirs for water-works to supply the city, and several tanks have been dug at the most prominent points in the business portions of the city, for special local use in case of fire. A steam and a hand fire engine are ready at the City Engine House, besides the smaller one owned by Z. C. M. I., and others in private hands. A fire department has been organized, which at present includes three companies—the Pioneer Engine Company, No. 1; the Eagle Hook and Ladder Company, No. 2; and the Z. C. M. I. Engine Company, No. 3. All these are volunteer companies. Some of the members are men of experience in the business, having belonged to fire companies in different cities in the Eastern States, but of course other members are comparatively raw hands, being taken from the available material of local production, excellent material, notwithstanding the present brief disadvantage of inexperience, but requiring a little time to get into good training and first class working order. Considering the newness of the organizations and the very recent reception of much of their apparatus, these unpaid volunteer companies, we hear it said, have done very well in their attempts to extinguish such fires as they have been called upon to attend, and it was with regret that we saw some unwise and ungenerous reflections cast and some severe, uncalled for, and unwarranted if not spiteful strictures made upon them publicly.

The city fire department has adopted, with such modifications as local circumstances have seemed to require, the best rules and regulations that they could find in the fire departments of the eastern cities, and has also as good engine and apparatus as can easily be procured. These advantages, with companies composed of the excellent material on hand, and tanks at such points as may be desirable, promise at an early period, as efficient a fire department as can be found in any city of similar population in the country. Arrangements have been made to have the engines ready for active service on the shortest possible notice, although, in a city of wide extent and thin population like this a company of men residing in different wards can not be got together so quickly as in a city of smaller superficies and more dense population. Measures have been taken to secure at the engine house eighteen beds, billiard table, library, periodicals, newspapers and other necessities, conveniences and attractions, so that there shall always be some portion of the companies on hand in case of a fiery outbreak. The members of these companies and all who have assisted in bringing the fire department up to its present condition deserve credit and praise for their past exertions, and words of cheer and encouragement for the future, rather than rash or savage censure for any possible lack in discipline, readiness, or skill in the new business of extinguishing fires in this city.

ACCIDENTS IN CACHE.—From an esteemed correspondent at Logan, Cache county, we learn of the following accidents: On the 12th inst. a boy, 10 years old, son of Mr. Frederickson, of Logan, was thrown from a sheep, breaking his arm, and dislocating it at the elbow. On the 14th inst. Miss Martha Maughan, while skating, fell on the ice, badly dislocating her leg at the knee, and on the same day, Ira Bowen, eight years of age, son of Jonathan Bowen, of Providence, was thrown from a sled, dislocating his arm at the elbow, and badly fracturing it about an inch above the joint. All these cases were attended with great success by Dr. Ormby, jun., but the last mentioned case is not progressing very favorably and amputation may be necessary.—Ogden Junction, Dec. 21st.